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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Alleged Change in Russian Policy after Beria's
Order to Sokolovsky
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INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 19 March 1947

PAGES 2
SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] the Politburo which Beria recommended to Marshal Sokolovsky is to be installed immediately in Berlin. Its head is to be a certain Natoshny or Natolny, who is allegedly unknown outside Russia but enjoys very close connections with the new Secretary-General of the Communist Party in Russia. He is supposed to be especially well qualified to put across Russia's "bourgeois, un-revolutionary policy".
2. The duty of this Politburo is to regain for Russia the good will of the German population and of the Allies. It is to establish better relations with the "bourgeois" parties. It is also to supervise all Russian military and political units in Germany, and to correct and punish all offenses, including any by the MVD. The SED has been informed of this new Russian course. In a speech at a secret meeting, Paul Merker urged that CDU and LDP participation in the administration of the provinces of the Russian Zone be emphasized. He pointed out that in 1947 the injurious effects of dismantling would become increasingly apparent and stated that the bourgeois parties must be forced to share the blame for the inevitable failures.
3. [REDACTED] many of the administrative functions now being performed by the military authorities at Karlshorst will, in the near future, be transferred to a kind of Politburo, staffed primarily with Russian civilians. With this establishment of a new civilian administrative agency there will be a course of moderation with respect to both economic and political measures, and to German personnel employed or supported by the Russians. The tendency will be toward greater use of German personnel from parties other than the SED, as well as of less radical SED personnel. It is possible that the seat of the new civilian agency will be in Leipzig.
4. Marshal Sokolovsky recently issued an order to the Commandants of all Kreise throughout the zone, according to which additional responsibility in local government is to be given to the German authorities. The order is reported to have included instructions to local Russian Commandants to cease interfering with the daily operations and details of local government. According to source, this order of Marshal Sokolovsky was issued upon request of Semeonov.

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5. It is claimed that the Russians are much more friendly to the CDU and the LDP than formerly. As an example, source cites General Kotikov's reception for the four new mayors of Berlin - Oberbürgermeister Ostrowski and Frau Schroeder of the SPD, Dr. Friedensburg, CDU, and Dr. Acker, SED. The last-named attacked Friedensburg, during the latter's temporary absence from the room, as a capitalist. Kotikov replied that Friedensburg is well known to the Russians, that he is a good democrat, and that the Russians would be glad if the Socialists were as good democrats. The same source reports that Russian censors have allowed CDU and LDP papers to print American releases with impunity, whereas the SED Neues Deutschland has received two warnings for the same offense.
6. It is reported that the presidents of all the Central Administrations met on 5 December 1946 and agreed unanimously to abandon their previous course, especially in regard to personnel policy. In the Central Administration of Health, the president, Dr. Paul Konitzer, has stated that he has collected much material showing that the personnel expert, Mear (SED), has followed party political lines exclusively in hiring and firing, without regard to other qualifications.

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Comment: Hugo Buschmann, president of the Central Administration of Trade and Supply, denounced the SED and resigned his post. Ferdinand Friedensburg, president of the Central Administration of Fuel, was dismissed. On 18 December a reliable source in the Central Administration of Industry said that all non-SED personnel were being cleaned out of leading positions in the Central Administrations and that even Skrzypczynski, of the Central Administration of Industry, might be forced out for this reason. A report with information date 14 October 1946 states that possibly Fitzner, president of the Central Administration of Transportation, and Besener, head of railroads in the Russian Zone, are presently to be replaced by Moscow-trained Germans.

7. During the last week in December, Russian personnel policy in the Central Administration of Health was revised. A number of announced dismissals on political grounds were revoked by Russian order. The Russians are said to have stated that dismissals for political reasons are contrary to democratic principles. Non-SED personnel in the Central Administration of Health (including President Paul Konitzer) regard this step as a temporary maneuver aimed at making the Central Administrations more acceptable to the non-SED parties and to the Western Allies as a basis for a future interzonal administration.

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Comment: The Central Administrations have received hints from SMA Karlshorst that they are to be raised to ministries shortly before or after the beginning of the Moscow Conference. Russian-oriented officials expect these ministries to become the nucleus of the future German government. These officials speak of this development with surprising confidence as though they have definite reasons for expecting a Russian diplomatic triumph at Moscow.)

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